

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ORANGEBURG DIVISION**

YOLANDA HANTON,
Plaintiff,

vs.

**DIVERSIFIED COLLECTION
SERVICES, INC.; and DOES 1
through 10, inclusive,**
Defendant.

Civil Action No.:

**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND
FOR JURY TRIAL**

COMPLAINT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for actual and statutory damages brought by Plaintiff, Yolanda Hanton, an individual consumer, against Defendant, Diversified Collection Services, Inc., for violations of the law, including, but not limited to, violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* (hereinafter “FDCPA”), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices.

II. JURISDICTION

2. Jurisdiction of this court arises under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1337. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§

2201 and 2202. Venue in this District is proper in that the Defendant transacts business here.

III. PARTIES

3. Plaintiff, Yolanda Hanton, is a natural person with a permanent residence in Santee, Orangeburg County, South Carolina 29142.
4. Upon information and belief the Defendant, Diversified Collection Services, Inc., is a corporation engaged in the business of collecting debt in this state and in several other states, with its principal place of business located at 333 North Canyons Parkway, Suite 100, Livermore, Alameda County, California 94551. The principal purpose of Defendant is the collection of debts in this state and several other states, and Defendant regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another.
5. Defendant is engaged in the collection of debts from consumers using the mail and telephone. Defendant regularly attempts to collect consumer debts alleged to be due to another. Defendant is a “debt collector” as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6. The debt that Defendant is attempting to collect on is an alleged obligation of a consumer to pay money arising out of a transaction in

which the money, property, insurance or services which are the subject of the transaction are primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, whether or not such obligation has been reduced to judgment.

7. Within one (1) year preceding the date of this Complaint, Defendant, in connection with the collection of the alleged debt, attempted to communicate with Plaintiff at their place of employment after being informed that Plaintiff's employer does not allow such communication, and improperly asked third parties at the work place to relay messages to Plaintiff.
8. The natural consequences of Defendant's statements and actions were to unjustly condemn and vilify Plaintiff for her non-payment of the debt she allegedly owed.
9. The natural consequences of Defendant's statements and actions were to produce an unpleasant and/or hostile situation between Defendant and Plaintiff.
10. The natural consequences of Defendant's statements and actions were to cause Plaintiff mental distress.
11. Defendant utilized unfair and unconscionable means to collect on Plaintiff's alleged debt, by attempting to place Plaintiff's job at risk by

trying to communicate with Plaintiff at her place of employment after knowing Plaintiff's employer does not allow such calls.

V. FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

12. Plaintiff repeats and realleges and incorporates by reference to the foregoing paragraphs.

13. Defendants violated the FDCPA. Defendants' violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Defendant violated §1692c(a)(1) of the FDCPA by communicating at a time or place known or which should be known to be inconvenient to the Plaintiff; and

(b) Defendant violated §1692c(a)(3) of the FDCPA by communicating with the Plaintiff at the Plaintiff's place of employment when the Defendant knew or had reason to know that the Plaintiff's employer prohibits the Plaintiff from receiving such communication; and

(c) Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA by engaging in conduct the natural consequences of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of an alleged debt; and

(d) Defendant violated §1692e of the FDCPA by using a false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of the alleged debt; and

(e) Defendant violated §1692e(10) of the FDCPA by using false representation or deceptive means in connection with the collection the alleged debt; and

(f) Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair or unconscionable means in connection with the collection of an alleged debt.

14. Defendant's acts as described above were done intentionally with the purpose of coercing Plaintiff to pay the alleged debt.

15. As a result of the foregoing violations of the FDCPA, Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff, Yolanda Hanton, for declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, and costs and attorney fees.

VI. SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

16. Plaintiff repeats and realleges and incorporates by reference to the foregoing paragraphs.

17. Defendant violated the South Carolina Consumer Protection Code § 37-5-101 et seq. (hereinafter "SCCPC").

18. Defendant's violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Defendant violated §37-5-108(iv) of the SCCPC by communicating with anyone other than the consumer, her attorney, a consumer reporting agency if otherwise permitted by law, the attorney of the creditor or debt collector, unless the consumer or a court of competent jurisdiction has given prior direct permission.

19. Defendant's acts as described above were done intentionally with the purpose of coercing Plaintiff to pay the alleged debt.

20. As a result of the foregoing violations of the SCCPC, Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff for actual damages, and statutory damages.

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WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Defendant, Diversified Collection Services, Inc., for the following:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA and the SCCPC.
- B. Actual damages.
- C. Statutory damages.
- D. Costs and reasonable attorney fees.
- E. Awarding Plaintiff any pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed under the law.
- F. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, Yolanda Hanton, demands trial by jury in this action.

Dated: March 04, 2013

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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